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Letter dated 22 October 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform the Security Council regarding the situation prevailing in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, especially in the town of Uvira.

My Government would like to inform the Security Council of the wave of killings perpetrated by the Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie/Goma (RCD/Goma) and troops of the Rwandan Patriotic Army (APR) on Saturday, 19 October 2002. This massacre of innocent people began precisely at 1 p.m. after the Mai-Mai combatants had already evacuated the town at the request of the Government and the international community.

A provisional count of these killings for Saturday, 19 October, alone, indicates that more than 100 Congolese were executed in cold blood. According to local sources, as confirmed by neighbouring radio stations, the combined troops of APR and RCD/Goma were under the command of Adolphe Onosumba and Major Amisi Tango Four at Uvira, and of Azarias Ruberwa at their provisional headquarters set up at Bukavu.

Furthermore, the fighting triggered a major humanitarian crisis, characterized by a massive displacement of almost the entire population of Uvira, who are now living without any assistance whatsoever in very unhealthy and unhygienic conditions.

My Government considers that the United Nations should be able to set up a commission of enquiry in order to shed light on this massacre of the civilian population of Uvira by APR and RCD/Goma on 19 October 2002. The dispatch of such a commission is especially urgent since all reports indicate that acts of violence and other atrocities continue to be committed against the population of Uvira and the surrounding area.

My Government also hopes that the United Nations, through the Security Council, will insist that Rwanda withdraw all its troops, including those whom it might try to conceal among the ranks of RCD/Goma, as well as those remaining in certain areas of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

My Government earnestly requests the Security Council to condemn the redeployment by Rwanda of its troops in the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo during the period 16-20 October 2002 from the airports of Kamembe and

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Kanombe (Kigali) and from the areas around Ruzizi II, Bugarama (Rwanda) and Cibitoke (Burundi). To that end there is a need for scrupulous verification of all RCD/Goma units in order to identify, on the basis of where they came from or where they are located, those who belong to APR.

My Government, wishing to complete the process of disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and rehabilitation, requests the Security Council, in close collaboration with the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) and the third party, to require the latter to proceed to establish assembly points and put them into operation for the assemblage of former members of the Rwandan Armed Forces (ex-FAR) and Interahamwe, including action to ensure the security of the assembly points in accordance with the procedures followed by MONUC and the Joint Military Commission. For that purpose, it is important to establish assembly centres for Rwandan ex-combatants in order to encourage their voluntary disarmament at the very time when the process of disarmament, demilitarization, repatriation, resettlement and rehabilitation has reached a very advanced stage of implementation in the part controlled by the Government, which includes a start on the repatriation of Rwandan ex-combatants from Kamina.

My Government also stresses the need to finalize the third phase of MONUC, including its urgent deployment to the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Lastly, my Government earnestly calls on the Security Council and the United Nations system as a whole to provide emergency humanitarian aid in order to assist all the people in that part of the Republic who have been displaced or wounded.

My Government encloses two documents in the annex to this letter. The first is a government communiqué taking note of the decision of the Mai-Mai combatants to withdraw from Uvira on Friday, 18 October 2002. The second contains a preliminary estimate of the forces of APR who have not been included in the "complete withdrawal" of Rwandan troops from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

My Government requests you to have this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Atoki **Ileka**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 22 October 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

A. Government communiqué

Members of the press,

Fellow countrymen,

The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has followed closely the decision of the Mai-Mai to withdraw from the town of Uvira in order not to hinder the peace process and to spare the stricken people of the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo further massacres and killings that would add to the number of innocent victims of the war imposed on our country.

The Government fully appreciates this patriotic gesture, which is also a positive response to its repeated calls for a cessation of hostilities so that there can be a return to peace, national reconciliation and national reunification, most recently the appeal made in its 14 October 2002 communiqué on the crisis situation prevailing in Uvira since 12 October 2002.

While the Mai-Mai, at the request of the Government and the international community, withdrew from Uvira during the night of Friday, 18 October 2002, however, RCD/Goma and the troops of the Rwandan Patriotic Army (APR) decided to embark on a massacre of innocent people at 1 p.m. the following day. First estimates from various sources put the number of dead at some one hundred innocent Congolese civilians, executed in cold blood.

The Government unequivocally condemns these abhorrent acts and reminds RCD/Goma and its allies that the demands of peace and national reconciliation will not prevent the advent of justice.

Accordingly, the Government will today, Monday 21 October, request the Security Council of the United Nations to set up a commission of enquiry to shed light on this latest massacre of Congolese citizens.

The Government remains convinced, nevertheless, that the situation in Uvira, which has been universally deplored and condemned, is an unfortunate incident that must not jeopardize the peace process in which the Congolese people are placing all their hopes. The Government believes firmly that any form of hostility and violence among Congolese cannot be justified at the present time.

The Government supports the 18 October 2002 statement by the President of the Security Council calling for the continued withdrawal of foreign forces from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the effective implementation of the Pretoria and Luanda peace agreements concluded among the parties, the rapid deployment of MONUC to the eastern part of the country and the holding of talks among the parties in order to end the hostilities and bring about harmonious, peaceful coexistence during the transitional period.

In this context, the Government reiterates its demand for the immediate holding of a meeting of experts from the Government, RCD/Goma, the Mai-Mai, civil society, local churches and MONUC with a view to setting up a mechanism for

administering and ensuring the safety of the population in territories evacuated by APR troops.

Accordingly, further to the 18 October 2002 statement by the President of the Security Council, the Government calls on all political actors and Congolese parties to show more prudence and restraint, with a view to expediting the resumption of a political dialogue, with the aid of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Moustapha Niasse, for the early conclusion of a comprehensive, inclusive agreement.

Lastly, the Government remains open to any initiative that might accelerate the conclusion of the all-inclusive agreement so desired by the Congolese people.

Done at Kinshasa, 19 October 2002.

(*Signed*) Vital **Kamerhe**
Government Commissioner responsible for monitoring
the peace process in the Great Lakes region

B. Rwandan troops that have remained in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Units not reported at time of withdrawal

I. Northern Katanga

1. One Rwandan Patriotic Army (APR) brigade headquarters at Kalemie;
2. One APR battalion at Moba;
3. One APR multiple launch rocket system at Moba.

II. Province of Maniema

1. APR 75th battalion of the 402nd brigade at Lubutu;
2. APR 12th battalion at Punia;
3. APR armoured detachment at Kindu;
4. Two anti-aircraft batteries at Kindu.

III. Kasai Oriental Province

1. One APR battalion at Kamana;
2. One APR field artillery battalion at Lodja;
3. One APR field artillery battalion at Lusambo;
4. One APR field artillery battalion at Kimabwe;
5. Two APR anti-aircraft batteries at Kole;
6. One APR brigade headquarters at Lodja.

IV. Orientale Province

1. One APR task force battalion at Ubundu;
2. One APR detachment/Mixed battalion (with the Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie (RCD)) at Banalia.

V. Nord-Kivu Province

1. APR 25th battalion at Rutshuru;
2. APR 68th battalion 10 km north-east of Kiwanja;
3. One 408th brigade headquarters at Katale;
4. One APR battalion at Rwindi;
5. One APR battalion at Vitshumbi.

VI. Sud-Kivu Province

1. 9th battalion of the APR 201st brigade at Uvira;
2. One APR battalion at Bukavu;
3. Whisky battalion at Kitutu.